



PRESS NOTICE

BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000**

November 22, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON: Winston Holliday
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Winston.Holliday@usdoj.gov
(803) 929-3000

DALZELL WOMAN SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Mary A. Porter, age 45, of Dalzell, was sentenced in federal court in Columbia for Assisting in the Preparation of False and Fraudulent Tax Documents, a violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2). United States District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie of Columbia sentenced Porter to 18 months in prison and ordered her to pay a \$40,000 fine. Porter also is precluded from acting as a tax preparer for the duration of her post-incarceration supervised release.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Porter was a tax preparer living and working in Dalzell. The name of her business was Porter's Taxes. Porter made up false expenses in order to reduce her clients' tax obligations.

Porter prepared at least 67 false tax returns for her clients in 2006, 2007, and 2008. She intentionally inflated itemized deductions and created fictitious Schedule C businesses. The false deductions included medical expenses, charitable contributions, un-reimbursed employee business expenses, and other expenses. The fraudulent returns caused a tax loss to the United States of approximately \$251,752.00. The IRS is auditing the individual taxpayers and recovering the loss.

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant United States Attorney Winston D. Holliday, Jr., of the Columbia office handled the case.

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